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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/717,048 | 11/18/2003 | John B. Boyle | H0005274-4580 | 7455 |
| 23639 | 7590 | 05/10/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| BINGHAM, MCCUTCHEN LLP THREE EMBARCADERO CENTER 18 FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-4067 | | | BOYKIN, TERRESSA M | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1711 | |

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,048

Applicant(s)

BOYLE ET AL.

Examiner

Terressa M. Boykin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3-2-6.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3-2-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' claims 1, 20, 21 and remain so broadly set forth that the claim continues to be interpreted by the Examiner as anticipated by the references while remaining within the scope of the specification. Although applicants arguments with respect to the art of record are understood, it should be noted that in order to prosecute the case resourcefully and expediently while giving the applicants the best possible search, it is imperative and practical for the applicants to clarify how the composition is arranged/incorporated/formed or structured therein. Without such clarity of structure, the art of record remains within the scope of the present claims and the applicants arguments although understood and appreciated are moot on those basis. It would be beneficial and helpful for the applicants in order to expedite the prosecution of the case to be in position of allowability by using language from the specification or drawn directly from the examples of the specification that would clearly and further specify the claimed language without, of course, unfairly limiting applicants intended invention.

35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph/ 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1- 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, because the specification, while being enabling for the broadly defined "constituent" there is no explanation of how the composition is arranged/incorporated/formed or structured therein.

Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Further, the specification on page 8 specifically disclose the constituent must individually or both combined be "*capable of being used as a fiber material....*" Thus, since the term 'constituent' when used alone is not limited to such use. i.e. the term constituent itself is understood to the skilled artisan as an ingredient, element or component, the term fiber constituent is broader than the enabling disclosure.

Although the CCPA has criticized the use of the characterization "too broad" or "undue breadth"....however, an application whose claim(s) are of a breadth which are not adequately supported by its specification is in violation of 35 USC 112, first paragraph. In re Borkowski et al., (CCPA 1970) 424 F2d 904; In re Wakefield, (CCPA 1970 422 F2d 897; In re Hammack, (CCPA 197).

With regard to claims 21 note that a process should at least recite clear,, active steps and any process parameters necessitated by the specification so that the claim will "clearly set out and circumscribe a particular area with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity, In re Moore, 169 USPQ 236, and make it clear what subject matter the claim encompasses, as well as make clear the subject matter from others would be precluded. In re Hammack 166 USPQ 204.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United

. Claims 3-19, 23-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b, or e) as being anticipated by USP 5047459 see col. 2 through col. 5 claims 1-10 and ex. 1-28; or USPub 2002099136 see pages 1-3, paragraph 10 and 40, claims 1-9; or GB 2274109 see abstract, pages 2-4 and claims 1-6; or US 4745143 see cols. 1-5; or GB 1476997 see abstract, page 1 to page 2, claims 1-11 and ex.1.

USP 5047459 discloses a self-extinguishing thermoplastic composition comprising a polycondensate selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic processible polyamides, thermoplastic processible polyesters and a mixture thereof and a flame retardant which comprises a mixture of melamine with at least one adduct of .epsilon.-caprolactam and hexamethylene diisocyanate in a molar ratio of 0.2 to 0.5 mole of hexamethylene diisocyanate to 1 mole of .epsilon.-caprolactam, wherein the proportion of the adduct, based on the mixture of the melamine and adduct, amounts to 5-25% by weight of the flame retardant.

USPub 2002099136 discloses a polyamide resin composition having an excellent gasoline resistance and impact resistance at a low temperature, and more particularly, to the polyamide resin composition comprising a general polyamide resin as an active ingredient; an impact modifier for dispersion such

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as EPM (ethylene/propylene) rubber, EPR (ethylene/propylene rubber) and EPDM (ethylene/propylene/diene) rubber; a plasticizer for providing flexibility such as lactams and sulfonamides; a thickener for uniform processability; and an ionomer for improving the appearance, elongation and impact strength, thus exhibiting advantages over conventional polyamide resins reinforced with an elastomer in excellent flexibility and appearance; superior gasoline resistance and impact resistance at a low temperature; better price as compared to its functions and thus enabling to be used in fuel tube systems of an automobile.

GB2274109 discloses molding composition for easier molding -containing. nylon, magnesium hydroxide flame-retardant and caprolactam! for reduced surface defects of moldings.

US 4745143 discloses a salt resistant composition comprising a polyamide selected from the group consisting of: polyepsiloncaprolactam, polyhexamethylene adipamide; copolymers of caprolactam, hexamethylene diamine, and adipic acid; and mixtures thereof. The composition contains from 2 to 30 percent, and preferably 4 to 30 percent based on the weight of the polyamide of a water insoluble plasticizer, and a copolymer of an alpha-olefin and an unsaturated carboxylic acid and derivatives thereof. The plasticizer has been found to enable the polyamide composition to maintain its flexibility upon exposure to a variety of salts. Preferred plasticizers include lauryl lactam and sulfonamides. Preferred are sulfonamide type plasticizers such as n-ethyl o,p-toluenesulfonamide; o,p-toluene sulfonamide, and toluene sulfonamide formaldehyde resin. The invention includes articles made from the composition.

GB1476997 discloses molding composition of polymers reinforced with mineral fillers.

Again, because of the broadly written claimed language, each of the references remains to be considered prior art over the claimed invention. composition prepared from the same components as claimed by applicants. Consequently, the claimed invention cannot be deemed as novel and accordingly is unpatentable.

Correspondence

Please note that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov <<http://www.uspto.gov>>), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. Applicants may be referred to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <<http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html>> or 1-866-217-9197.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Terressa Boykin whose telephone number is 571 272-1069. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30am to 3:00pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. The general information number for listings of personnel is (571-272-1700).


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tmb



Examiner Terressa Boykin
Primary Examiner
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